
The Hermon Connection

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Mailbox Policy for Hermon's Local and State-aid Highways



One of the most controversial issues the Town faces is damage to mailboxes during snowstorms. The typical feeling is that the Town and or its contractor for snow removal don't pay close attention to mailboxes or lawn is the farthest from the truth. No one enjoys damaging mailboxes or other items within the right of way. Nor do we like to get the calls or emails from frustrated citizens for damages to their mailbox.

The Town Council in 2015 approved a Mailbox Policy for its local and state-aid roads. The standards/guidelines are from the US Postal Service and the American Association of Highway and Transportation Officials.

Most citizens do not know we have a policy in effect or if they do understand the Town didn't just put the standards together without guidance from the agency who is ultimately responsible for delivering your mail safely- The US Postal Service.

For convenience and practicality, mailbox installations have been allowed within the right-of-way of Hermon's local and state-aid highways; however it is important to recognize that such installations have two very important conditions:

- 1) The mailbox must be installed in accordance with applicable standards to ensure that mail can be delivered and that the mailbox does not create an obstacle or safety hazard to those that use or maintain the highway, and
- 2) The mailbox is installed entirely at the owner's risk. In other words, if the mailbox incurs damage during any sort of highway operations or maintenance, the property owner is not entitled replacement or compensation. In fact, if the mailbox was not installed in accordance with the applicable standards as stated above, the owner may even be held liable for injuries or damages that may have been incurred as a result.

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The Hermon Connection
If you have a news story or
article for publication
in the next edition of
The Hermon Connection,
please send it to:
scottwl@hermon.net
Deadline for submissions:
February 23, 2018

Wishing
everyone
a safe, healthy
and prosperous
2018!

Mailbox design and installation standards are available from several sources and mailbox owners are expected to consult this information prior to undertaking any mailbox installation or replacement. The following standards have nationwide relevance and were developed in cooperation with one another:

- The United States Postal Service (USPS) Mailbox Guidelines. The USPS defines the standards for mailbox construction, as well as the placement tolerance that must be met to accommodate postal operations. Specifics may be obtained from your local post office or online at: <https://www.usps.com/manage/mailboxes.htm>
- American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Roadside Design Guide. The AASHTO Roadside Design Guide, Chapter 11: *Erecting Mailboxes on Streets and Highways* deals with the safety and construction of privately owned mailboxes, mailbox supports, and mailbox turnout designs and is less focused on postal operations. This publication may be obtained online through the AASHTO Bookstore at: https://bookstore.transportation.org/Item_details.aspx?id=1807

In addition, if the mailbox is to be installed in an area with sidewalks, it is important to recognize that the sidewalks must continue to comply with ADA requirements:

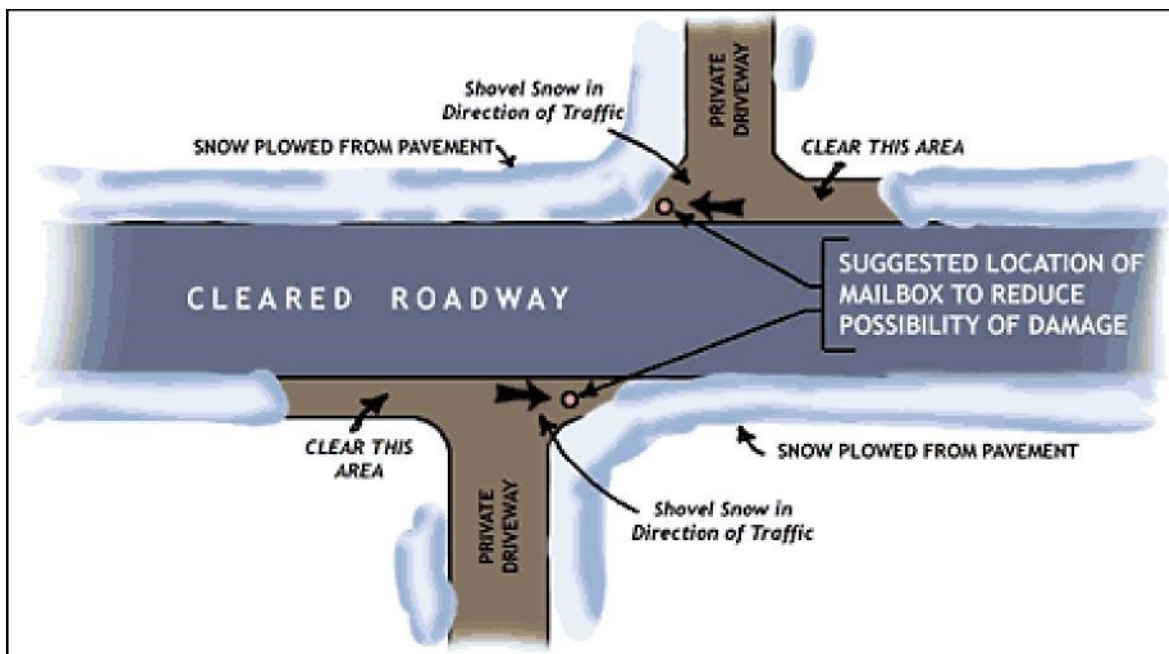
- American Disabilities Act (ADA). The most current version of the ADA Standards for Accessible Design set forth the minimum requirements to ensure facilities are readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities.
<http://www.ada.gov/regs2010/2010ADAStandards/2010ADAstandards.htm#c4>

The Town of Hermon has adopted this policy to promote compliance with these national standards and to help further clarify the expectations and responsibilities for mailbox owners. The following pages further specify the details associated with mailbox height, location, offset, and post type to minimize the potential hazards and conflicts associated with mailbox installations and to reduce the opportunities for damage to mailboxes.

Mailbox Installation Standards

General Location:

Whenever possible, your mailbox should be located after your driveway opening. This location placement improves visibility, minimizes the amount of snow that comes off of the snow plow, and improves the approach for your mail carrier. The diagram below suggests the preferred placement:



Mailbox Support Design:

In many cases, it is best to use an extended arm type of post with a free-swinging suspended mailbox. This allows snowplows to sweep near or under boxes without damage to supports and provides easy access to the boxes by carrier and customers. The following picture shows a free-swinging suspended mailbox:



In addition, note the strategic placement of the red reflector on the point closest to the road. This will help your local snow fighter see and avoid your mailbox during winter storms.

Offset:

Mailboxes should be set back from the edge of the shoulder – regardless of whether the shoulder is gravel or paved. In other words, the face of the mailbox should be at least **one foot (1')** **back from the edge of the normally plowed surface** of the highway or the face of curb. Greater offset distances are encouraged whenever possible to allow the mail carrier to get further out of traffic and to further minimize potential damage to your mailbox. The following picture shows a mailbox with a reasonable offset:



Mailboxes in sidewalk areas should leave at least 36" behind the back of the box or the post, whichever is located the furthest from the road.



Height:

According to USPS standards, a mailbox must be installed with the bottom of the mailbox located between 41" and 45" high above the surface of the highway shoulder. The Town of Hermon recommends that this height be closer to the 45" measurement to minimize conflict with the height of the plow truck wing when snow is being pushed back during, or between, winter storms. The following picture further clarifies the height considerations:



Post Size, Type and Embedment:

Mailbox posts must be sturdy enough to hold up the mailbox in all types of weather conditions; however they cannot be so rugged that they present a hazard to vehicles that inadvertently leave the road. If a mailbox support is struck by a vehicle, it must easily break away. Therefore, the following types of posts are deemed acceptable:

- **4” x 4” wooden posts** embedded **2 feet** into the ground. Larger wooden posts may be used only if the post is drilled through with an appropriate spade bit to create a shear plane that is no higher than 6” above the surface of the surrounding ground. The number and size of the drilled holes depends upon what is necessary to bring the cross-section of the larger post down to the equivalent cross-sectional area of a standard 4” x 4” post.
- **1” to 2” round diameter steel or aluminum pipe or standard U-channel post** embedded **2 feet into the ground.**
- Unacceptable mailbox supports include: anything that is filled with concrete, masonry and stone structures, heavy steel structures, and most objects that were intended for other uses (e.g. antique plows, I-beams, and various other household tools and objects).

NOTICE: Mailboxes, attachments or support systems not consistent with this policy are considered “Deadly Fixed Objects” (aka. “DFOs”) and are in violation of 23 MRSA §1401-A. As such, when these installations are recognized by Hermon, the owner may be informed of the hazard and immediate removal requested. If the property owner does not comply with this request, The Town of Hermon may elect to remove the installation and seek reimbursement from the property owner for all costs incurred.

The Senator’s Corner

Article by Senator Geoff Gratwick



How do you dispose of unused medicines?

Should you flush them? No! Antibiotics end up in ground water and lead to resistant bugs that can affect us all; hormones end up in our rivers and lakes and do strange things to fish and aquatic organisms.

Should you leave them in the medicine cabinet until tomorrow? No! Left over pain killers too often find their way into the wrong hands and feed the opioid epidemic.

Should you mix them with coffee grounds and throw them in the trash? Possibly... This prevents diversion, but then the mixture must be incinerated at greater than 2300 degrees to destroy the drug molecules.

At temperatures less than this they too enter the water table. PERC in Orrington is an appropriate burn facility.

Mail back programs have been tried in Maine but were expensive and never really caught on.

So what to do? The best option: take your pills to the collection box at the Bangor Police station. There are also a one-day collection events put on by the Maine Drug Enforcement Agency in October and April; they are inconvenient but are reasonable. There is currently no disposal site in Hermon.

As a physician, I have been concerned about drug disposal for a long time. I joined Maine’s Opioid Task Force to help in the quest for ways to get rid of the dangerous supply of unused pain pills. By some estimates, unused opioids have been the starting point for 75% of the people now hooked on narcotics.

I am working on a pharmaceutical take-back bill, also known as a pharmaceutical stewardship bill. It would place the equivalent of secure Post Boxes in pharmacies. The State of Washington has a pioneering program that is working well. It will take time to make it work here in Maine but it is in our future. We need safe, easy and inexpensive disposal options for unused medicines.

CODE AND ASSESSING DEPARTMENT MERGER

The Town of Hermon is pleased to announce the merger of its Code Enforcement and Tax Assessing Departments. The merger will provide residents and business owners the most cost effective and reliable services in the area, while ensuring Hermon is “*A Great Little Town in the Heart of Maine to Live, Work and Play.*”

If you have any questions, please call Josh Berry at 848-1042 or email him (best way to track him down!) at Josh.Berry@Hermon.Net. We look forward to working with you in 2018 and wish everyone a wonderful year.

HERMON BUSINESS OWNERS

The annual Personal Property Declaration Forms, letter of instruction and personal property itemized assessment forms will be mailed out in February. Maine State law, under Title 36 Sec. 706 Property Taxation, requires taxpayers to furnish the Assessor a true and perfect list of what they possess on the first day of April. The 706 or Declaration Form requests business owners to complete the forms and return to the Assessing Staff by April 15th. The completed form provides the Assessor with your current information allowing to correct the assessment list of items you may have removed or purchased during the year, or if you have sold or relocated the business. The letter also instructs businesses who qualify for the Business Equipment Tax Exemption (BETE) they are to send in a new application with any items they feel qualify.

Find everything you need on our website at WWW.HERMON.NET/ASSESSING

HOMEOWNERS: DO YOU QUALIFY FOR A PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION?

Visit our website at WWW.HERMON.NET/ASSESSING to see if you qualify for the homestead, veterans or any other exemptions offered through the State of Maine.

HERMON HIGH SCHOOL

Dear Parent/Guardian,

In preparation for the upcoming Self-Reflection that Hermon High School will be completing as part of the NEASC Accreditation process, all students, families, and faculty are invited to complete surveys designed to provide the school with important feedback on our work. We hope to learn more about what is working well for our students and identify areas for growth and improvement. Every student will have an opportunity to complete the survey during the school day.

In addition to the student survey, we are asking that all families complete the family survey. We have provided a link to the family survey on the school's webpage and have listed the link below:

<https://surveys.neasc.org/s3/NEASC-CPS-Family-Survey-Hermon-High-School>

We thank you for your continued support of our school.

Sincerely,

Brian Walsh
Principal
Hermon High School
848-4000 ext. 1302
walshb@hermon.net



Neighbors Supporting Neighbors Food Pantry

We are looking for individuals and groups that will organize fundraisers and food drives to help us provide food to our clients throughout the winter months. I can be contacted at 299-5186 or by email at clacked@yahoo.com.

The food pantry dates are:

Jan 4 & 18

Feb 1 & 15

March 1 & 15

April 12 & 26

May 10 & 24

All are from 9-11 AM

Distribution is at 2402 Rte., Danforth's Supermarket Plaza.

The residents that need our help in Hermon, Carmel, Etna, Levant and Dixmont thank you so much!

Thank you for your continued support,
Carol Lackedy



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moritasschoolofdance.net,
msdancestudio68@hotmail.com
or 848-5083



The Hermon High School Library Media Center is open to the communities of Hermon, Carmel and Levant from 2:15pm to 6:00pm Monday through Friday when school is in session. We hope to see you at the library. We have wifi and computer access as well as many books.

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BEWARE: Recent Frauds and Phone Scams

by SSgt. Bobbie Pelletier



Fake IRS Scams – With tax season upon us, be aware of scammers calling and making you think you owe back taxes or stating there is something wrong with your tax return. They often try to influence you to pay money immediately and can request credit card info, bank account info, reloadable card info, or money wire transfers. Callers will often threaten that you will be arrested and go to jail if you do not comply. They try to identify themselves as Dept. of Treasury or law enforcement. The callers often have a foreign accent and can often become rude on the phone if you don't follow their instructions. This is a scam and the best thing to

do is hang up the phone. If they call back tell the caller this is a scam and you have notified the police.

Parent/Grandparent Scams – You may receive a phone call from someone claiming to be your child, grandchild, or having custody of them and claiming to be the police. They claim there has been a problem of sorts and the child is in jail and needs bail money. They try to claim that the child will get into more trouble if immediate action does not take place. They attempt to access your bank account information or pressure you to make a money wire transfer. This is a scam and do not give them any private information over the phone. Contact your local police and or your child or grandchild directly to make sure they are safe.

Computer or Microsoft Problems – You may receive a phone call or email from someone claiming they are from Microsoft or from a known computer company. They claim they have noticed dangerous viruses or recent problems with your computer. They claim you need immediate repairs and often request bank account information, money wire transfers, or gift card information. They may also try to gain remote access to your computer to try and gather personal information or attempt to “lock” or “freeze” your computer up. They will then hold your computer for ransom until some type of fee is paid. The callers usually have a foreign accent. Do not give them any information or access to your computer. Do not open up any suspicious emails and delete them from your account immediately.

ALSO - Be alert of anyone contacting you “out of the blue” and requesting “any form of payment”. Some scammers will state you have won money, but state you have to pay a fee to receive it. These are all scams!! If it sounds too good to be true.....often it isn't!!! Call your local police if you have any questions or concerns about a possible fraud. **Don't give out any information!!!**

HERMON HIGH SCHOOL HOSTS JROTC DRILL COMPETITION

Article and Photograph by Cadet CPT Tayler Magliozzi



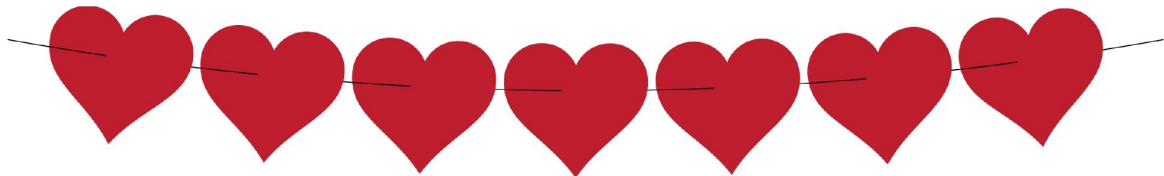
Honor, pride, and professionalism are three traits that define a cadet. Hermon High School was buzzing with these qualities as a result of a JROTC drill competition. Hermon hosted four schools with respective drill teams; among them were Bangor, Old Town, Nokomis, and White Mountains. This large group of dedicated cadets demonstrated their pledge to bring honor to their family, country, and school as they carried the nations colors with pride.

JROTC is a high school elective that uses Army values to motivate young people to become better citizens. Drill is one of the teams cadets can choose to participate in, an activity that takes a lot of commitment and devotion. Drill teaches cadets the importance of paying attention to detail and gives members of the team the opportunity to be a follower as well as a leader. The Hawk Battalion color guard was commanded under Cadet Major Halle Cole who stated, “it's great to meet other people from different schools while doing something we love.”

The Hermon Hawk Battalion will continue performing color guards before sporting events . Cadets look forward to next drill season.

Father Daughter Dance

Sunday, February 12, 2017 from 5-7 PM
Morgan Hill Event Center



Attention all daughters: You are cordially invited to Hermon Recreation's annual Father Daughter Dance. Grandpas, Uncles or other male role models are welcome as escorts too! Spend the evening dancing, enjoy refreshments and great entertainment!

Tickets

Hermon Resident:
\$25 per couple
\$5 per additional guest

Non-Residents:
\$30 per couple
\$7 per additional guest

Registration begins Monday, January 1.
www.hermonrec.com

Limited tickets available. Registration is required to attend and no tickets will be sold at the door.

From the Hermon Fire Department

Article by Frank Roma



As we enter the holiday season it is right to take time to take stock of that which we can be thankful for and look ahead to the New Year with hopeful expectation.

Here at the Hermon Fire department, we are thankful for the opportunity to serve our community, assist our neighboring communities and to do so in a safe and efficient manner.

The residents of Hermon are indeed lucky to have a highly trained and dedicated group of firefighters who respond day in and day out to all manner of fires and medical emergencies. Many of the members of the HFD have years of service with our longest serving member having pulled on his first pair of boots back in 1989! Our newest member has been with us less than a year.

We are always looking for new members who are willing to serve! The training is rigorous and demanding. The working conditions are at times dangerous, cold, wet, hot and exhausting. There are no set hours when emergencies occur and you can expect to be called to duty during family gatherings, birthday celebrations, and even during Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners! No guarantees of a full night's sleep or an uninterrupted day off either!

Who would want to volunteer for such a job? Sadly less and less people are filling the ranks of most volunteer departments across the country. Even with a fair per-diem stipend as is offered at the HFD, it is difficult to recruit and keep members. And while we are both fortunate and lucky to be able to respond to the calls of those who are having their worst day, there are no guarantees we will always be able to do so without the continued response of our dedicated members and the addition of new members dedicated to serving the Hermon community now, and into the future.

So the members of the HFD wish you and yours a safe and joyful holiday season. And, if you are looking for a way to give back to your community, have the time to dedicate to training and response to emergencies, come and visit with us here at the HFD to learn more about how YOU can serve your community and be a part of a GREAT organization! Check out our face book page (Town of Hermon Fire Department @hermonfiredepartment) to see more of what we do and what goes on at the HFD!

HERMON HAWK JROTC BATTALION MARCHES IN THE VETERANS DAY PARADE

Article by Cadet CPT Tayler Magliozzi

Photograph by Todd Magliozzi



A day of honor and respect for all past and current military service members commenced with the annual Veterans Day parade in Bangor. The Hermon Hawk Army JROTC Battalion united as one to honor the men and women who have served our country. Marching in front of hundreds of supportive spectators, it was evident that the respect for the military was unwavering and all-inclusive.

Students in the JROTC program are taught leadership skills through military values and are given many opportunities to serve the community. As professional leaders throughout the entirety of the parade, cadets displayed the selfless service and duty they have been taught to uphold. "The Veterans Day parade reflected the heroes of our past and showed a bright example of the ones to come," remarked third year cadet Kenyan Robinson.

The battalion looks forward to returning next year to again march among dozens of organizations and veterans from across the state to celebrate outstanding military service.

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Open to grades K - 8
\$15 Registration Fee

FEBRUARY BREAK

Tuesday 2/20 - Friday 2/23
Program runs 6:30am - 6pm
Hermon Elementary School
Open to grades K - 8
\$25 daily rate per child

www.hermonrec.com

Reminder:

As set by the Town Council,
all tax payments
will be due in full by April 1, 2018.

Online Payments

You can pay your **current** real estate taxes,
your **current** personal property taxes,
and your sewer payments on line.
Go to www.hermon.net, click on
tax payments and follow the links.